



## Culling and Wisconsin Fishing Tournaments

Beginning June 14th, 2011, participants in DNR-permitted fishing tournaments will be allowed to cull largemouth and smallmouth bass.

- "Cull" or "Culling" means the practice of releasing a live fish that was held in an angler's possession and replacing it with another fish. Live fish that are released and capable of swimming away under their own power are not considered part of the angler's daily bag limit provided the total number of fish possessed at any one time does not exceed the angler's daily bag limit.
- In Wisconsin, culling is only allowed in permitted largemouth and/or smallmouth bass tournaments.

*We have a small tournament with fewer than 20 boats, are we allowed to cull?*

Yes, but only if you receive a tournament permit. Culling is only allowed in catch-hold-release largemouth and/or smallmouth tournaments that have a permit from the DNR. See <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/fishingtournaments/application.html> for details on getting a tournament permit.

*Is there still a reduced daily bag limit for tournaments during warm water periods?*

Yes. Because high water temperatures increase post-release mortality rates and thus a waste of natural resources, catch-hold-release bass tournaments between the first Saturday in July and the second Sunday in August have a reduced bag limit of 3 fish per person, which still applies now that culling is allowed in these events.

*I received a tournament permit before June 14th, 2011 for a later event, can we cull?*

Yes. Any permitted tournaments targeting largemouth or smallmouth bass occurring after June 14th are allowed to cull.

*Can I cull out a smallmouth bass with a largemouth bass?*

Yes. Largemouth and smallmouth bass have combined bag limits so either fish can be exchanged; just be sure that the total number of bass in your live well does not exceed the daily bag limit for that water.

*We have a permitted tournament that targets bass and walleye, can I still cull?*

The new rule authorizes the culling of largemouth or smallmouth bass only. Any walleye placed in an angler's live well will still count towards their daily bag limit, even if later released and replaced with a different walleye.

